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SOURCE

In a lecture given before members of the one-year study course at the Karl Marx Academy, Klein-Machnow, on 19 June 1950, (fnu) Adam, a functionary of the West Bureau of the SED Party Directorate, offered the following observations:

1. The Party press is unable to present a comprehensible picture of the very difficult situation in which the KPD finds itself in Western Germany. The KPD is the target of attacks from all parties, from the Bonn parliament, the Lnder governments, etc.
2. General economic conditions in Western Germany have been deteriorating of late. As regards unemployment, Western Germany ranks third behind the United States and Italy. The crisis has already reached a stage where it pervades all political life. At the same time German imperialism is developing in two directions: a) material re-armament. b) ideological rearmament. The former is amply illustrated by a recent directive licensing the resumption of poison gas production.
3. The most important step undertaken by German imperialism is at present its adherence to the Schuman Plan under American auspices. It is designed to become the material (reale) foundation for the coming war. It constitutes a decisive step in the path toward war and signifies the inclusion of Western Germany in the camp of warmongers. During the coming weeks and months the pressure to which workers are subjected will be increased and the class struggle will be intensified because the Schuman Plan has to be implemented. The FDGB and the CGT have countered the imperialist alliance with a trade union pact in order to resist the many attacks against German and French workers contained in the Schuman Plan. This plan will determine the wage level on which French and German workers are to be remunerated for their work, i.e., to what extent they are to be exploited. But the imperialists won't have easy going in carrying through their plans. In the future the FDGB will become more and more active in all-German politics.

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The failure of Trygve Lie also has to be considered in this context. American imperialists have openly declared that they disagree with his plans and have taken to ridiculing them. Both the Schuman Plan and Lie's visits play a role in Western Germany.

5. Since the Whitsun Rally, one senses a new spirit pervading part of German labor and West German youth. In this connection a difficulty has arisen for which the KP itself must be held responsible. Many of the older members are incapable of ridding themselves of "sectarianism" (Sektieretum). They view the FDJ as a Communist youth organization and exploit it in furtherance of the Communist election campaign. This is going too far, and the land directorates (Landesvorstaende) are quite aware of it: only the lower echelons fail to see it. The result of this policy is that it will alienate part of the FDJ membership unless it is discontinued as quickly as possible.
6. The DFD (Demokratische Frauenbund Deutschlands) already has a membership of between 30 and 35,000. Directorates have been set up in each land. Here, too, sectarian tendencies have cropped up. The DFD is the largest organization of German women. It is not a Communist organization. It comprises non-party (Parteilose), CDU and Communist Party members who all agree on two basic questions: Peace and Unity.
7. These mass organizations form the platform from which people must be enlightened about the secrets of war preparation. In accomplishing this we (i.e., the Communists) shall aid them, although we realize that it may take years before they join the ranks of the workers' movement. We should have progressed much farther by now if the KP were sounder in ideological matters, since the mass organizations now provide the KP with conveyor belts for the propagation of its ideas.
8. The Society for the Study of the Soviet Union has 60 local chapters in all larger cities. Anti-Soviet sentiments are to a certain degree outlived in Western Germany. They have been replaced by a desire to know more about the Soviet Union. Parts of the intelligentsia seriously endeavor to obtain a truthful picture about conditions in the USSR. The Society will, in the course of 1950/51, become a mass organization in Western Germany. The peak of its recruitment drive will be reached in October of this year. The KP underrates the authority of the Soviet Union among the masses. Many people who do not favor the domestic policies of the Soviet Union are overwhelmed by the consistency with which the Soviet Union pursues its peaceful course and by the successes of that policy.
9. The trade unions pose a difficult problem inasmuch as they are controlled by the enemy. In the KP, sectarianism takes the form of expressions of disinterest in trade union affairs. Even among Communist trade union functionaries there have been cases of surrender. Within the trade unions a system of outspoken terror has been launched against the peace movement. Reformist trade unionists are interested in seeing the influence of trade unions curtailed because of the fear that they could be drawn into the orbit of the peace movement. We are therefore faced with the following necessity: To create a real trade union opposition like the RGO before 1933. Parts of the KP believe that the best course to follow is to remain inactive in this question. There is among the KP and the workers an anti-trade unionist feeling which is directly supported by the reformist leaders. It is very difficult for the DDR to render any assistance in this matter from the outside.
10. Critique of the Peace Movement in Western Germany. Peace congresses with elected representatives exist in all Laender. As regards the

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peace committees, although they do exist, they remain in isolation and fail to engage in mass agitation. The first important step was the collection of signatures protesting the atom bomb. Here again we witness the symptoms of sectarianism. The first lists issued contained a declaration in favor of the Soviet Union, the DDR and Peace. The second issue required a reading time of 20 minutes. Consequently, new lists will have to be printed. This has done us incalculable harm. The underlying false concept appears to be: We permit you to fight for peace only on the condition that you meet our terms.

11. In the near future the following key events (Hoehepunkte) will be staged in Western Germany: a) a great congress of the young fighters for peace; b) a congress of the intelligentsia; c) a day in commemoration of Hiroshima and similar memorial days.
12. During the second half of 1950 we shall experience an intensification of the offensive of imperialists in all fields. At the same time the performance of the fighters for peace will also improve. Objectively speaking, we encounter great difficulties in warding off the organized fight against the working class. We now also possess, however, a basis from which to fight and we are aided by the Communist press campaign designed to uncover preparations for war. In the future development our fighters for peace will also have to resort to working clandestinely (distribution of pamphlets, etc). The slogan "Go Home Ami" has engendered considerable fear among the Anglo-Americans. One should also observe its impact among the occupation troops.
13. One of the most important steps of the Peace campaign will be the forthcoming visits of West German delegations to the DDR.
14. Inner Party difficulties of the KP. There are two problems about which there exists little understanding among the lower Party echelons: a) joint action with parts of the bourgeoisie in the National Front (vide Dr. Gerecke who is a valuable ally); b) joint action with the intelligentsia. Thus far we have been unable to draw the intelligentsia into the melting pot of history as has been done, for example, in France. One does not find the proper points of contact. The destiny of Germany will be decided on the basis of our position vis-a-vis the intelligentsia. Either we succeed in winning them over, thereby creating a tremendous army of propagandists and agitators, or they will join the fascist terror organizations of the future.
15. From an overall point of view, the situation is favorable to us. Once the storm against imperialism breaks loose, it will do so in the whole of Europe. Developments in Western Germany will then be part of a European movement.

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